Chapter VII. History.

Vijayanagar Kings, 1480-1580.

Kánara, 1567.

For about twenty years after Dom João da Castro's treaty in 1547 no reference has been traced to any unfriendliness between the people of Kánara and the Portuguese. In 1568 or 1569 Dom Luiz Ataide besieged and took Honávar and built a fortress on the Honávar river.[1] In 1569, according to Ferishta, the queen of Honávar made a treaty with Bijápur and tried to take the Portuguese fort but failed.[2] In 1570, as part of the great league of Ahmadnagar Bijápur and Kalikat against the Portuguese, it was agreed that Bijápur should get Goa, Honávar, and Barkalur. The queen of Gersappa joined the league and declared war against the Portuguese.[3] In the history of the Portuguese in India there are few more brilliant and successful achievements than Mascarenha's defence of Cheul against Ahmadnagar, and Dom Luiz de Ataide's defence of Goa against Bijápur. Though so hard pressed in Goa Dom Luiz was able to send succour to Honávar and the attack failed.[4] In the following year when the Bijápur troops had withdrawn from Goa the viceroy brought a fleet to Honávar, destroyed the Kalikat and Bijápur ships, and sacked and reduced to ashes the town which was then rich and populous. The fort after being bombarded for four days capitulated, and George de Moira was left to garrison it with 400 men half of whom were Portuguese.[5] During the attack on Honávar, Dom Luiz, who was a man of dauntless courage, sailed in a brigantine seated on a chair with a famous harper beside him. When the balls began to whistle past his ears the harper stopped, and Dom Luiz asked him to play on as the air was excellent. One near him prayed him to take care of himself. If he were slain all would be lost. 'No such thing,' said the viceroy, 'there are men enough to succeed me.'[6]

The Portuguese, 1560-1600.

In a Portuguese map of about 1570, published in the second volume of the Commentares of Dalboquerque, the only places marked in the Kánara coast are Angediva, Onor, and Batecalla, and De Barro's map, about 1580, shows only Anchidiva and Batecalla.[7] De Barros describes Kánara as beginning at a river called the Aliga which runs west from the Sahyádris, where was a fortress called Chittykula or Sintakura which jutted out opposite the island of Anjidiv.[8] South of Chitakul he mentions Ankola, Egorapan (Agrakona), Mergen, the city of Honávar the head of the kingdom of Batekala, and Batekala.[9] These cities were subject to the king of Vijayanagar, a powerful king who next to Bahádur of Gujarát (1526-1536), was the richest ruler in India. About 1584 there are two references to the pirates of the Ratnágiri and the Malabár coasts who with varying names seem under a succession of chiefs to have continued to harass trade. In 1584 the pirate chief of Sangameshvar in Ratnágiri was so troublesome that Bijápur and the Portuguese

Pirates, 1584.

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[1] Instruccao de Marquez Alorna, Nova Goa, 1856, 9, 10. Briggs' Ferishta, III. 520, 521. According to Ferishta the Portuguese had a fleet of 130 sail and 3000 Europeans besides natives. [2] Briggs' Ferishta, III. 520, 521.
[3] Faria in Kerr, VI. 427. [4] Faria in Kerr, VI. 427. [5] Os Portuguezes, VI. 196.
[6] Faria in Kerr, VI. 45. [7] Lisbon Edition of 1777.
[8] Decadas de Barros, First Dec. P. II. 293, Lisbon 1777, Book IX. Chaps. 1 and 2.
[9] Decadas, II. 319.

combined against him, Bijápur destroying his land force and the Portuguese his fleet of pirate vessels.[1] On the Malabár coast, under a Musalmán captain Khoja Ali, the Nayers did the Portuguese much injury. They ranged all the coast from Ceylon to Goa four or five boats together each with fifty or sixty men.[2]

The Portuguese, 1560-1600.

Towards the close of the sixteenth century (1590) Jean Hughes de Linschot mentions a Portuguese fort at Honávar.[3] It yielded much pepper, 7000 or 8000 Portuguese quintaux a year, which was held to be the best pepper in India. The ruler of the country was the queen of Batikala. She arranged with the factor who lived at Honávar, but the pepper had always to be paid six months in advance. Rice also grew in abundance. For the rest Honávar was seldom visited except when the ships were lading. The trade was formerly small but of late had increased. In 1599 Fulke Grevile, in the Memoir which supplied the information on which the measures of the first English East India Company were based, mentions the queen of Batikala selling great store of pepper to the Portuguese at a town called Onor which they hold in her state.[4]

Bijapur, 1600-1670.

The great league against the Portuguese in 1570 shows that Ahmadnagar and Bijápur were able to overcome the rivalry which had saved the Vijayanagar dynasty from entire destruction after the battle of Talikot. In 1573 their advance towards friendliness went further, and they agreed that Ahmadnagar should conquer eastwards and Bijápur southwards.[5] Bijápur captured Adoni near Bellári and its supremacy is said to have been acknowledged along the west coast from Goa to Barkalur in South Kánara.[6] This is supported by the agreement already noticed between Bijápur and the queen of Gersappa. But though they may have received tribute, the local evidence seems to make it doubtful that Bijápur troops actually overran and held the coast districts of Kánara before the beginning of the seventeenth century. The local Hindu chiefs continued for a time to acknowledge the supremacy of the Vijayanagar kings. By degrees those of power and energy set aside the shadow of control and declared themselves independent.[7]

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[1] Faria in Kerr, VI. 463.

[2] Ralph Fitch in Hakluyt's Voyages, II. 398. Pyrard de Laval a few years later wrote (1600): During the six summer months the Malabár pirates cease not to roam attacking Portuguese and Indian boats. They are great fighters and beat the Portuguese oftener than the Portuguese beat them. Voyages, 323.

[3] Navigation, 21. The famous English captain Davis about the same time (1590) mentions Honávar as a chief place of trade. Voyages, 130.

[4] Bruce's Annals of the East India Company, I. 125.

[5] Briggs' Ferishta, III. 135. [6] Rice's Mysore, I. 235.

[7] Buchanan (Mysore, III. 125) notices that the Hindus place the fall of Vijayanagar twenty years later than the Musalmáns, that is about 1584. A Vijayanagar viceroy continued at Seringapatam till 1610 (Rice's Mysore, I. 234), and the Ikkeri or Bednur chiefs went on styling themselves under-lords of Vijayanagar till about 1650 (Ditto, 243). A representative of the old Vijayanagar kings continued to hold a small territory round Anegundi till near the close of the eighteenth century. He was generally known in the Deccan by the title of Rayil. They had a mint at Anegundi and a yearly income of about £25,000 (Rs. 2,50,000). They were said to possess a register of the revolutions which had happened within the limits of their former empire. Moor's Narrative, 183. Under the name of Alpatan, apparently the city,